

Treasury Department,

Bureau of the Mint,

Washington, D. C., August 2, 1899

W. J. Boies, Esq.,

Editorial Rooms,

Evening Post, New York City.

Sir:

Replying to your letter of the 1st instant, I would say that all Australian gold comes to us in sovereigns and I understand there is no provision for supplying bars at the Australian Mint. The following is an extract ^{from the report} of the Deputy Master of the Sydney Mint for the calendar year 1898, in which he refers to this matter:

"I may here allude to the shipments of sovereigns, totalling 5,615,000 pounds ^{sterling}, from this port to San Francisco. These have been occasioned by the largely increased exports of produce from the United States to Europe, and it has been found convenient to make payments to the extent above-mentioned from Sydney instead of from London, the voyage from here to America being a short one and the rates of freight and insurance exceptionally low. It has been suggested by several of the Sydney Bankers that the issue of a gold trade-ingot from this Mint would serve for purposes of export to foreign countries and save the cost of manufacturing a redundancy

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of sovereigns which are no doubt remelted on reaching their destination".

I have no way of ascertaining just how much of this gold came from San Francisco to New York last year, but I presume practically all of it did. Part came by registered mail and part by express.

I shall be at the New York Assay Office to-morrow, and if I can give you any further information I shall be glad to do so.

Respectfully yours,



George E. Roberts
Director of the Mint.

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